

To date, they are the only ones who recognize themselves as such.

Together with both the E.U. and the U.N., the U.S. has been a strong ally of the Republic of Cyprus, and we owe it to her to continue our steadfast support. As a Congress, we must uphold our Nation's pledge to advance the July 8th agreement that President Papadopoulos and Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat reached a year ago. This agreement would begin the process of setting up bi-communal committees and working groups to address day-to-day issues facing those caught up in this conflict.

Unfortunately, Talat is not only yet to move forward with his earlier promise, but has also now gone back on his word. We must work to convince Talat that it is in his best interest, and in the best interest of Turkish Cypriots, to cooperate. They will be left behind and without a seat at the table if they choose to disregard plans for progress toward a solution.

Meanwhile, Greek Cypriots continue working toward their national commitment. The Republic of Cyprus took the initiative to demolish a portion of the fortification at Ledra Street in the capital of Nicosia. Opening up this crossing point was a confidence building step, as was demolishing a Cypriot National Guard post in Kato Pyrgos in an effort to open up another crossing point.

There are steps members of this House can take to show support for the people of the Republic of Cyprus. We can cosponsor legislation to resolve the Cyprus problem—H.R. 1456, H. Res. 405, and H. Res. 407.

H.R. 1456 enables U.S. citizens who own property in Turkish-occupied Cyprus to seek financial remedies with either current inhabitants of their land or the government of Turkey. The intent here is to ensure that property not only benefits the lawful owner, but also that it stays out of the hands of illegal squatters.

H. Res. 405 expresses the sense of Congress for the support and implementation of the July 8th agreement as a way forward for the reunification of Cyprus. And H. Res. 407 expresses the support of the House of Representatives for the positive actions of the Republic of Cyprus to open more crossing points and to reach a cease-fire.

These are all bills that I'm a cosponsor of, and I urge other members to join me in my support for these worthwhile measures.

As a Greek American and as a member of the Hellenic Caucus, I could not feel more strongly about the reunification of Cyprus. The issue is straightforward and clear: we must aid our ally, the Republic of Cyprus, in righting the wrongs of the past 33 years. I cannot think of a better day than today, on the eve of the 33rd anniversary of the Turkish invasion, to express my conviction on the matter.

Tomorrow, we must both remember the past and look to the future. In recognizing the significance of July 20th for the citizens of the Republic of Cyprus, we must recommit ourselves to the cause of restoring the island nation to its rightful inhabitants. I ask for the support of my colleagues in this worthy undertaking.

COSPONSORSHIP OF H.R. 1400, THE
IRAN COUNTER-PROLIFERATION
ACT OF 2007

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, I am proud to cosponsor H.R. 1400, the Iran Counter-Proliferation Act of 2007. This bill will give the United States far superior economic and political leverage against Iran's ongoing and dangerous nuclear program by significantly strengthening our sanctions package against Tehran.

The necessity for the United States and the world to negotiate a final termination to Iran's nuclear program cannot be overstated. The signals that Iran's nuclear program may not be peaceful are legion: Iran is in violation of its International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards agreement, it has yet to explain decades of deception surrounding their nuclear research and construction programs, it is pursuing a uranium enrichment program which could eventually produce weapons-grade uranium, and it is building a heavy-water nuclear reactor which will produce plutonium which could be used for weapons.

An Iranian nuclear weapon could threaten the United States, the security of the Persian Gulf, and it would certainly threaten one of our greatest allies, Israel. Iran's position in the region has unfortunately been greatly strengthened by our misadventure in Iraq, and the regime in Tehran may believe that with a nuclear bomb they could become the regional hegemon, the local strong-man. Such an outcome would be disastrous for the stability of the region, and would be deeply threatening to the United States and our allies. We must do everything we can to avoid this scenario. The Iran Counter-Proliferation Act will put stronger arrows in the diplomatic quiver of the United States through its expanded sanctions package, and it hopefully will help us find a resolution to this important issue.

Iran's development of a nuclear weapon would also be a deeply damaging blow to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, and could signal the death-knell for international efforts to halt the spread of the bomb. An Iranian nuclear weapon would so dramatically alter the balance of power in the Middle East and Central Asia that other nearby countries could decide that they must pursue a weapons program as well to protect themselves from the sway of Iranian regional hegemony. In such a scenario, an Iranian bomb could spur the development of a Saudi bomb, an Egyptian bomb, or a Turkish bomb. If the cascading security implications for the region from an Iranian nuclear weapon did lead to neighboring countries also pursuing nuclear programs, the NPT may truly be shattered beyond repair.

While I support H.R. 1400 and am proud to cosponsor it, I am concerned that one provision of the bill may have the unintended consequence of undermining our international efforts to unify all governments around the world against Iran's dangerous and destabilizing nuclear program. This bill would remove the President's ability to waive sanctions against foreign countries and corporations if the sanctions could harm the national security interests of the United States. I share the view of the

bill's authors that such Presidential waiver authority has been utilized far too frequently—in fact, the international sanctions contained in the Iran Sanctions Act have never been utilized because they have been waived every year! However, I am concerned that by removing the waiver altogether, we will go too far in the other direction.

A number of American allies would be targeted by a universal application of the sanctions contained in H.R. 1400, and while it may be desirable in many cases to do so, leveraging such costly sanctions against our international partners could in certain circumstances make it more difficult to convince these countries to support our efforts to obtain further multilateral sanctions against Iran. No country and no corporation should get a free pass to conduct business in Iran, but at the same time we must retain the flexibility necessary to assure success at the multilateral level. For this reason, I intend to work with my colleagues to make sure that a tightly-crafted waiver authority is included in the final legislation—not to encourage its use, but to ensure that the United States retains the flexibility that we must have to be successful.

It is also very important that H.R. 1400 includes a provision clarifying that nothing in the act authorizes the use of force or the use of the United States Armed Forces against Iran. I believe that our best strategy for success against the Iranian nuclear program will be a strong combination of economic sanctions, political engagement, and multilateral pressure with a clear and persuasive package of benefits to Iran in exchange for the renunciation of their nuclear program. A successful strategy does not involve the use of force, and in fact the use of force against Tehran would most likely backfire by solidifying the domestic political support for the hard-line regime which is continually loosing the support of its people.

I believe that we can solve the Iranian nuclear issue with smart diplomacy, forceful engagement, unilateral and multilateral sanctions, and a sophisticated understanding what combination of sticks and carrots will be persuasive to the decision-makers in Tehran. While it is my opinion that most of the Bush Administration's efforts in this regard have been heavy-handed, ideologically rigid, uncreative, and ultimately counter-productive, I believe that some of their recent actions point to the slow adoption of a more sophisticated approach towards this extremely important problem. The Iran Counter-Proliferation Act will help strengthen this approach, and will help us ratchet up the pressure on Iran. It is yet to be seen whether the Bush Administration will be wise enough to couple this bigger stick with a bigger carrot, and I hope that they do so. Far too much hangs in the balance, and the United States strategy must be smart, adaptive, and tough.

I urge adoption of the bill.

“LANDMARKS”

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, during the July 4th holidays with my family, I heard the following inspirational sermon in Denver,